

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 14703 260346Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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S E C R E T SAIGON 14703

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR EG VS

SUBJ: EGYPT AIR OVERFLIGHTS OVER SOUTH VIET-NAM

REF: JIDDA 6866

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC TOLD ME THAT HIS "NOT TOO BRIGHT" REPRESENTATIVE IN JIDDA HAD QUERIED SAIGON FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE GVN APPROVAL OF THE EGYPTIAN OVER-FLIGHT IN VIEW OF SAQQAF'S DEATH. AMBASSADOR DON, ACCORDING TO BAC, HAD SAID THAT THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED ANNOYED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE AWARE OF THE APPROVAL BEFORE THE SAUDIS WERE. BAC SAID THAT HE HAD REPLIED TO HIS AMBASSADOR THAT IF HE HAD CARRIED OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS CONTRETEMPS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED AND TO IMMEDIATELY CONVEY THE APPROVAL OF THE GVN UPON RECEIPT OF HIS MESSAGE. AMBASSADOR AKINS MAY WISH TO CHECK WITH DON TO SEE IF HIS INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND CARRIED OUT. INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT FLIGHTS MAY BEGIN AROUND DECEMBER 1, BUT WE WOULD RATHER CHECK AGAIN IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO TO TIE THIS DOWN COMPLETELY.

2. SORRY FOR THE CONTRETEMPS AND THE DELAY, BUT OCCASIONALLY INSTRUMENTS WITH WHICH WE HAVE TO WORK ARE SOME TIMES LESS THAN PERFECT.

MARTIN

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NNN

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